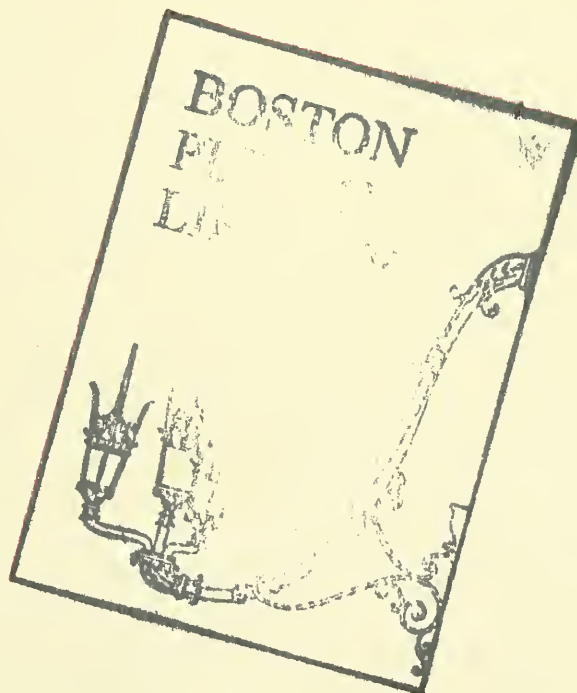


GOVDOC
BRA
4465

Property of
BOSTON REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
Library

Property of
BOSTON REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
Library



back Bay
126 C



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2011 with funding from
Boston Public Library

COPLEY SQUARE COMPETITION

The beautification of Copley Square has been a long-sought objective in Boston. Planners, architects and civic-minded citizens have urged for many decades that Copley Square be redesigned and restored to its architectural prominence as one of the world's great urban spaces.

We are gratified that through this competition the nation's most talented architects and landscape architects have offered many outstanding design solutions.

I am confident that the winning design will serve not only as a guide for the restoration of Copley Square, but will represent a model for the beautification of other cities throughout the nation.

1

John F. Collins
Mayor of Boston

The City of Boston, the Boston Redevelopment Authority, Back Bay Council, Back Bay Planning and Development Corporation, sponsors of the competition, announced its opening in September 1965. Over 650 registrations were received from designers in all parts of the country. By the close of the competition in February, 183 qualified entrants submitted their designs to the Jury. Judging took place at the Chandler School, overlooking Trinity Church and Copley Square. On March 2, 1966, after two days of deliberating, the Jury chose by majority vote, six finalists and submitted the following Jury Report to Mr. Charles G. Hilgenhurst, Professional Advisor for the Competition.

JURY REPORT

Pietro Belluschi, Chairman of the Jury

Dan Kiley	Wilhelm V. vonMoltke	Jose Luis Sert
Hugh A. Stubbins	Sidney N. Shurcliff	Roger C. Damon
Asa S. Knowles	H. Russell Beatty	Bryan E. Smith

First Award

2

A brilliantly presented solution. The scheme recognizes the nature and scale of the environment and gives proper emphasis to the more important buildings, including the new Old South Church on Boylston Street. The location of the fountain and pool is sensitively chosen, in relation to the spaces through which pedestrians move. The plan diagram is skillful in scale, suggesting beautiful spaces. The Jury recognized the need for economy as a mandatory requirement and believed that this solution did as well as possible in this regard, but hoped that the execution may finally be done in more substantial materials.

Second Award

A simple and effective statement, which emphasizes the romantic drama of the two great buildings of the Square: namely, Trinity Church and the Boston Public Library. Lighting and tactile surface of paving slate is very good.

Third Award

This solution was very much admired by some members of the Jury as the boldest approach. It is a clear, strong unhesitating expression of the three focal points of the

Square. Trinity Church is framed beautifully from all directions.

First Honorable Mention

A simple and convincing solution, creating a sense of "place", intimate and well related to all the buildings surrounding the Square. The principle, size, and scale of the fountain are appropriate, but its location and shape were questioned by some members of the Jury. A proper setting for Trinity Church is achieved by the promenade on the northern side of the Square. A tree-lined promenade fittingly defines Boylston Street. Excellent night lighting is provided by low, reflected cove lights on the north and south peripheries.

Honorable Mention

This scheme does seem to fill in a distinguished manner most of the criteria set up by the Jury. Its strength lies in its simplicity and the rightness of the scale. The Jury commented favorably on the quality of its graphic presentation.

Honorable Mention

Again the simplicity of the scheme appealed to the Jury. Yet many questioned the appropriateness of a reflecting pool in this particular surrounding. They also felt that its size and character needed further study.

ABOUT THE WINNERS AND THEIR DESIGNS

✓ First Award

SASAKI, DAWSON, DEMAY ASSOCIATES, INC.
23 Main Street
Watertown, Massachusetts

4 This firm's professional services range in scope from detailed site and landscape development problems to comprehensive planning, designs for educational institutions and urban areas. Among their numerous landscape development projects throughout the country are Constitution Plaza and Tower Plaza in Hartford, John Deere Administration Center in Moline, Illinois, and Rhode Island School of Design Dormitory Complex. The firm has been honored with numerous design awards and medals for distinguished work in landscape architecture and site development.

"The proposed plaza design recognizes the need for each building to have its own setting, yet relate to the Square. The symmetrical facades of the Library and the Hotel are acknowledged, and brought into the composition. The offset siting of Trinity Church is balanced by the sunken pool and fountain. Diagonal pedestrian movement is encouraged; the cascading steps gently entice the pedestrians visually and actually into the Square. While views from all sides into the plaza are unimpeded, once within the space, a sense of enclosure is provided by the low walls and plantings around the sunken area..."

✓ Second Award

COOPER & AUERBACH, ARCHITECTS
1912 Sunderland Place, N. W.
Washington, D. C.

This firm's practice is varied, ranging from residential to large commercial and institutional buildings, including Harbin Hall at Georgetown University, Georgetown University Research Center in downtown Washington, administration buildings for the Washington Ethical Society and the Unitarian Universalist Church of Silver Spring, Maryland.

"The significance of Richardson's Church and the importance of pedestrian cross traffic were the most powerful generating factors of our design. We felt that landscaping, sculpture and paving must all be subordinated to the Church and allow the pedestrian complete freedom of use of the square. These attitudes produced a strong diagonal line from the northwest corner of the Square focused on the center of the Church's main facade. The area to the south ... was left free from any encumbrance, but was gently and deceptively sloped so as to be depressed... at the front of the Church..."

Third Award

WILLIAM A. GOULD & ASSOCIATES
1404 East 9th Street
Cleveland, Ohio

This firm provides professional services in all phases of architecture and urban and regional planning. Projects in

architecture include a Research Building, Plaza, 2,000 car parking ramp, and Hillel Student Foundation, all in University Circle Research Center, Cleveland. A Master Plan for Downtown Cleveland is among their planning projects. The firm received an Honor Award in the F.D.R. Memorial Competition, 1960.

"The Copley Square project was approached with the recognition of four basic objectives:

To provide..setting for the Trinity Church and the Public Library which will be unified and, at the same time, reflect the separate identity of each;

6 To provide a visual and spatial contrast to the surrounding fabric of the City within the area of the Square;

To provide, visually and functional, an expression of natural pedestrian traffic patterns;

To establish an appropriate relationship, visual and functional, between the Square itself and the immediate surroundings, particularly the Boylston Street corridor."

✓ First Honorable Mention

HERBERT L. HAMILTON, JR.
GEOFFREY FREEMAN
PETER ROUDEBUSH
79 Walnut Street
Winchester, Massachusetts

The three architects came together as a design group for the purposes of this competition. Messrs. Freeman and Roudebush worked in European cities for several years before returning to architectural practice in this country. Mr. Hamilton practiced architecture in the South for 10 years before coming to Boston, where he has practiced for 8 years.

"The basic design concept is to create a pedestrian place within Copley Square which recognizes its inherently great urban space, enhances its architecture and reinforces its relationship to the city... The design, it is felt, should be a backdrop to the already recognized great buildings which border the Square, and nonetheless be a delightful place to walk, to sit, to meet and to linger within the city."

✓ Honorable Mention

RICHARD FOSTER, ARCHITECT
60 East 42nd Street
New York, New York

This two year old firm provides professional services in the design of monumental buildings, public buildings,

laboratories, commercial buildings and housing. Current projects include a synogogue in Brooklyn, office building in Port Washington, New York, and residences and housing developments in several New England states.

8 "The Copley Square design was envisioned as a classic square. Simplicity of elements and materials, all used to form a backdrop to display the existing architectural gems... The fountain was introduced as a design element to add noise and movement... and is "anti-fountain" in the classic sense since no collecting pool is provided as an adjunct to the design. The "volcano-like" spring point serves as a water-sculpture base only, and the water either falls back on itself or is caused to run along the paving to be collected in drains at the plaza surface level."

Honorable Mention

EARL R. FLANSBURGH & ASSOCIATES
44A Brattle Street
Cambridge, Massachusetts

This firm's present architectural work includes the Biology Laboratories for Harvard University, preliminary design for Franconia College, New Hampshire, and consultation for a school development program in Quincy, Massachusetts.

"The intent of this design was to enhance the existing architectural richness of Copley Square, to unify the space contained by it and to set the stage for urban human activity."

Property of
BOSTON REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
Library